

Re: The Vinland Map's Ink

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- *From:* "Ken Towe" <ken.towe@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 6 Apr 2005 18:53:20 -0700
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I'm still waiting. Plenty of rhetoric and comments on other topics, but no answer to my query...

" I would like those who regard the VM as an authentic medieval document to answer my question ...If the map is really medieval, what is a PLAUSIBLE explanation for the appearance AND composition of the inks that is consistent with the age of the parchment?"

It is a really weak answer to argue(?) that we don't really know what the exact composition of the ink is and therefore we cannot discuss plausible scenarios. We DO know a number of things and these things that we DO know have to be placed into a plausible scenario consistent with a medieval origin.

OK. What do we know NOW that requires plausible explanation?

(1) there is anatase (TiO₂) in the ink (but not on the parchment). This anatase is free of associated clay minerals (XRD, SAED, TEM shows no clays!) therefore ruling out a "natural" source (unless someone can PLAUSIBLY explain how a natural trace component clay anatase could have been completely separated from the clay which is 97% of the sediment)..

(2)The anatase in the ink is a dead-ringer for commercial anatase...not available until circa 1920.

(3) the ink is NOT an iron-gall ink, which was the standard ink of the period and which is found (free of titanium!) on the Tartar Relation and the Speculum Historiale. The experts at the British Museum (e.g. David Baynes-Cope) found that the VM was unlike any of the many documents that they had seen.

(4) The ink (as observed today) is a two-component "ink". There is an underlying yellow-brown material with commercial-grade anatase and an overlying carbon-based material, much of which has flaked off.

Now, regardless of what the precise composition of the ink is, what explanation can be offered that will explain all of these four things and will also be consistent with authenticity?

And, please...no more name-calling, gutter language, ad hominem criticisms, or diversions from this point. Thanks, KEN

• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
 ◇ *From:* Seppo Renfors
- ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
 ◇ *From:* Eric Stevens

• *References:*

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 ◇ *From:* Eric Stevens
- ◆ ***Re: The Vinland Map's Ink***
 ◇ *From:* Steve Marcus
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